

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 048377

ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
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EA/RA - MR. HARRIS
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-----050730Z 039198 /13-12

R 041701Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 048377

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, ID

SUBJECT: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S FIGURES ON INDONESIAN
DETAINEES

1. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MEMBER HAS PROVIDED DEPTOFF WITH
PARTIAL EXPLANATION OF HOW AMNESTY DERIVED ITS CURRENT
CLAIMED FIGURE OF 100,000 INDONESIAN DETAINEES, REPLACING
THE EARLIER FIGURE OF 55,000 WHICH AMNESTY HAD BEEN USING
FOR SOME YEARS. EXPLANATION IS CONTAINED IN NOTES THAT
ACCOMPANY THE WEST GERMAN FILM "MORE THAN A MILLION YEARS",
WHICH AMNESTY CIRCULATES. TEXT OF NOTE AS FOLLOWS:

2. QUOTE. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HAS LEARNED THAT THERE
ARE LITERALLY THOUSANDS OF SMALL JAILS, DETENTION CENTERS,
ARMY INSTALLATIONS EQUIPPED FOR DETENTION, AND WORK CAMPS
FOR DRAUGHT (SIC) LABOR THROUGHOUT INDONESIA. SOME MAY
HOLD ONLY A FEW PRISONERS, OTHER A DOZEN OR MORE. SOME
COMMON LAW JAILS HAVE SMALL NUMBERS OF TAPOLS AMONG LARGE
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POPULATIONS OF COMMON CRIMINALS. THESE PEOPLE ARE LESS
EASILY IDENTIFIABLE THAN THOSE HELD IN THE LARGER PRISONS
AND RESETTLEMENT CAMPS. BUT THEY ARE HELD WITHOUT TRIAL
OR CHARGE FOR THE SAME REASON AS THE OTHERS, AND THEY ARE
POLITICAL PRISONERS. WHEN THE TOTAL FIGURE IS DRAWN, THEY
NUMBER IN THE TENS OF THOUSANDS. THE 34,000 FIGURE IS A
GROSS UNDERESTIMATE AT BEST. UNQUOTE.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENT AS TO VALIDITY FORE-
GOING ASSERTION. AT YOUR DISCRETION, YOU MAY WANT TO
QUERY GOI OFFICIALS INFORMALLY.
CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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